

Editorial note

Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies has been published in-house by the staff of the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham since 1984. With an editorial board drawn from leading academics in the field and an international subscription list, it is recognised as one of the foremost annual scholarly journals in its area, and an important publishing outlet for current research. Over the last five years, however, it has become increasingly clear to the editors and editorial board that the competitive nature of the market, rising costs and the workload associated with the business management of the journal posed a serious threat to the journal's continued existence. As a consequence, we have unanimously agreed to hand over, from 2004, production, marketing, publication sales and distribution to a commercial publisher: Maney Publishing. The Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, through the editors, will retain full academic responsibility and control. We are pleased that we have been able to secure the future of *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, and are confident that our new publisher will serve our readers well in the years to come, and that the journal will now have a much greater prospect for growth and development. We believe strongly that this change will benefit both the journal and the fields it supports.

Maney is one of the few remaining independent publishers in the UK, publishing nearly fifty journals under its own imprint, and has UK offices in Leeds and London and in Cambridge in the US. The Company was founded in 1900 and since 1945 has produced a range of journals for academic societies or organisations. Maney will offer the Centre an individual and comprehensive publishing arrangement customised to its needs, and whilst the Centre will retain editorial control and ownership, Maney will handle production, marketing, subscription management and mailing.

Maney is especially well-known for its titles in languages and literature, archaeology, architectural history, the decorative arts, and social history. However, it also publishes science and biomedical titles and added a major cluster of ten (now thirteen) materials science journals with an associated book publishing programme to the list in 2001, which are published in association with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. Other major customers include, for example, the Modern Humanities Research Association (since 1963), which publishes seven journals and two monograph series in association with Maney. For those readers who want to know more about the Company and its publishing activities we recommend a visit to the recently re-designed and re-launched website at www.maney.co.uk.

This volume will be the last in the old style; but although the design and format of the journal will change somewhat, its recognisable logo and basic colour scheme will be retained. We very much hope that readers will appreciate and approve of the changes we are making.

Finally, we owe a word of thanks and appreciation to our current printer, Bemrose Shafron, of Chester. We have had an outstanding relationship with all the production staff at Bemrose Shafron, and although we greatly regret that we have to take *BMGS* elsewhere, the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at Birmingham will continue to work with them on other, future projects. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them well for the future.

John Haldon,
For the Editorial Board, *BMGS*